

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 407

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Private Harry Leon Wilson, United States Army.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, it is altogether proper that we take a moment to recognize those soldiers gone before, soldiers who, with unrivaled bravery, set the standard for thousands of Tennesseans through the ages to continue our time-honored tradition of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, sadly, many of these soldiers have not received the acknowledgement they deserve for their courageous actions that, ultimately, helped shape the history of our country; and

WHEREAS, Private Harry Leon Wilson, of the United States Army, was one such American soldier; he served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for his heroism as a soldier in the Korean War who, having been taken a Prisoner of War, died in captivity; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late Mr. Joseph L. Wilson and Mrs. Jennie Wilson, Private Harry Wilson, of Elizabethton, was born in 1932; he was granted parental consent to enlist in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, he was a proud member of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, Private Wilson was taken prisoner on Thanksgiving Day of 1950, while fighting the enemy in North Korea; he died on February 8, 1951; and

WHEREAS, Private Harry Wilson is currently the only known African American Prisoner of War from Upper East Tennessee to die in a Korean Prisoner of War Camp; to this day, he is

also the only known African American to be a member of the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division during his period of service; and

WHEREAS, Private Wilson was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal in recognition of his dedicated and courageous service; and

WHEREAS, Private Harry Wilson served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Harry Leon Wilson's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, Private Harry Wilson is survived by two aunts, Edith Carpenter and Florence Boren; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to join with the United States Army and the citizens of Elizabethton, Carter County, the State of Tennessee, and the United States of America in honoring a fallen son; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Private Harry Leon Wilson of Elizabethton and Carter County, reflecting upon his heroic sacrifice of his life as a member of the United States Army during the Korean War, as we express to his family our sorrow for his loss and our gratitude for his commitment to the cause of freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.